

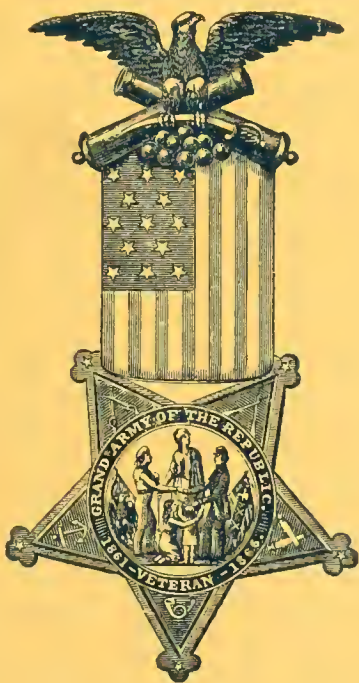
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Andersonville

Prison Park

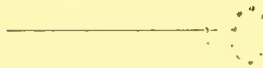


ITS PURCHASE
AND IMPROVEMENT

ANDERSONVILLE PRISON PARK.

REPORT OF
Its Purchase and Improvement.

ACCOMPANIED BY
A PLAT OF THE GROUNDS, MADE FROM
ACTUAL SURVEY.



COMPILED BY JAMES P. AVERILL,
Chairman Advisory Board,
ATLANTA, GA.

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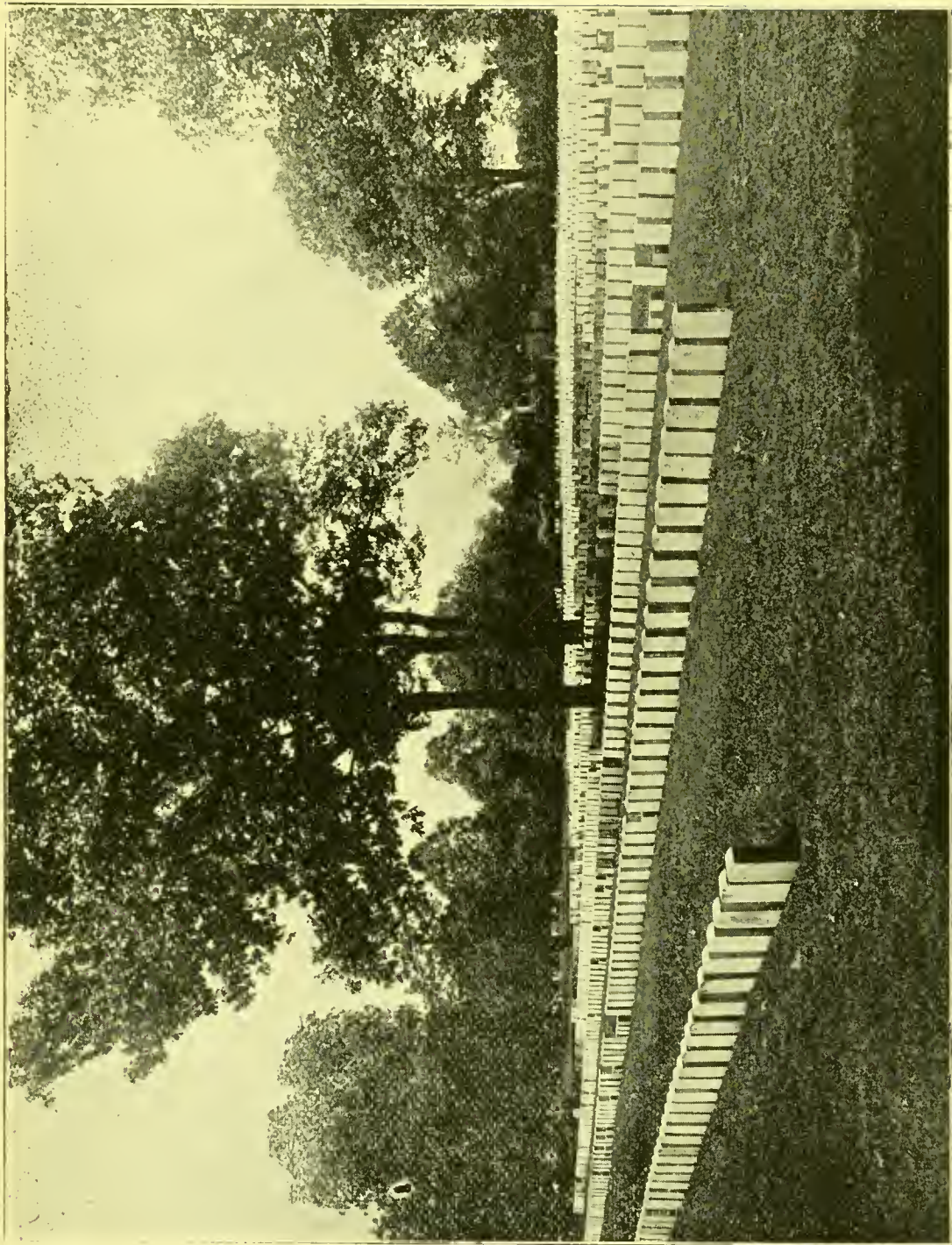
THOMAS FRAME, Superintendent National Cemetery, Andersonville, Ga.

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NOTE.—A limited number of these pamphlets may be obtained by transmitting twenty cents per copy (to cover the cost of publication), to James P. Averill, P. D. C., G. A. R., Atlanta, Ga.



View Looking South-West in National Cemetery, Where the Heroes Lie Buried.

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ANDERSONVILLE PRISON PARK.



UCH an increasing popular demand has developed for a history of the Purchase and Improvement of the Prison Grounds at Andersonville, Georgia, that, in compliance therewith, the following is respectfully submitted. The accompanying plat is drawn from actual survey, made by F. Reimann, civil engineer, and the illustrations are from photographs taken under the supervision of the author.

ESTABLISHING THE ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY.

In accordance with Special Orders No. 19, Quartermaster-General's Office, June 30, 1865, Capt. James M. Moore, A. Q. M., U. S. A., proceeded to Andersonville, Ga., for the purpose of marking the graves of Union soldiers for identification, and enclosing the cemetery. From his report to the department, September 20, 1865, the following interesting facts are obtained:

Capt. Moore left Washington July 8, 1865, with mechanics and material, for the purpose of carrying out the order. On arriving at Savannah, he ascertained that there was no railroad communication to Andersonville, the roads from Savannah direct to Macon and the one from Augusta, via Atlanta, having been destroyed by Sherman's army and not yet repaired. He also found that a sufficient number of teams could not be found in the State to transport one-half of his stores and equipment over the nearly four hundred miles of wagon road. He was, therefore, obliged to await the completion of the repairs on the railroad from Augusta to Atlanta, which was accomplished by July 18. After a trip of six days he arrived at Andersonville.

On the morning of July 26, Capt. Moore began the work of identifying the graves, painting and lettering head-boards, laying out walks, and enclosing the grounds, which are now known as Andersonville National Cemetery.

Assistance was rendered by one company detailed from the Fourth U. S. Cavalry and one from the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh, U. S. Colored Troops, established at Macon.

The dead were found buried in trenches on a site selected by the Confederates, about six hundred yards west of north of the stockade. The trenches varied in length from fifty to one hundred and fifty yards. The bodies in the trenches were from two to three feet below the surface, and, in some instances, but a few inches, where rains had washed away the earth. Additional earth was thrown upon the graves, sufficient to properly cover them, and continuous mounds were made over each as it laid in the original trenches. So closely had the uncoffined and emaciated remains been buried, that each grave occupied but little over twelve inches in width, and, consequently, the small tablets, provided by the Government, measuring ten inches in width, nearly touched each other.

The prisoners at Andersonville had been detailed to aid in burying their dead companions, and, by a stake at the head of each grave, which bore a number corresponding with a similar numbered name upon the Andersonville Hospital Record, kept by the Confederates, Capt. Moore was enabled to identify and mark the greater portion of them by neat wooden tablets.

It is a satisfaction to know that reasonable assurance can be placed upon the correct identity of those thus marked. The number thus properly identified by Capt. Moore and his competent assistants, with name, rank, regiment, company and date of death, was twelve thousand, four hundred and sixty-one (12,461), there being but four hundred and fifty-one (451) that bore the sad inscription, "Unknown." One hundred and twenty thousand feet of pine lumber was used in the construction of these tablets, which have since been replaced by neat marble head stones, similar to those now in use in all of the National Cemeteries. A copy of the record was made and entrusted to the keeping of the Superintendent of the Cemetery, so that visitors are enabled to find

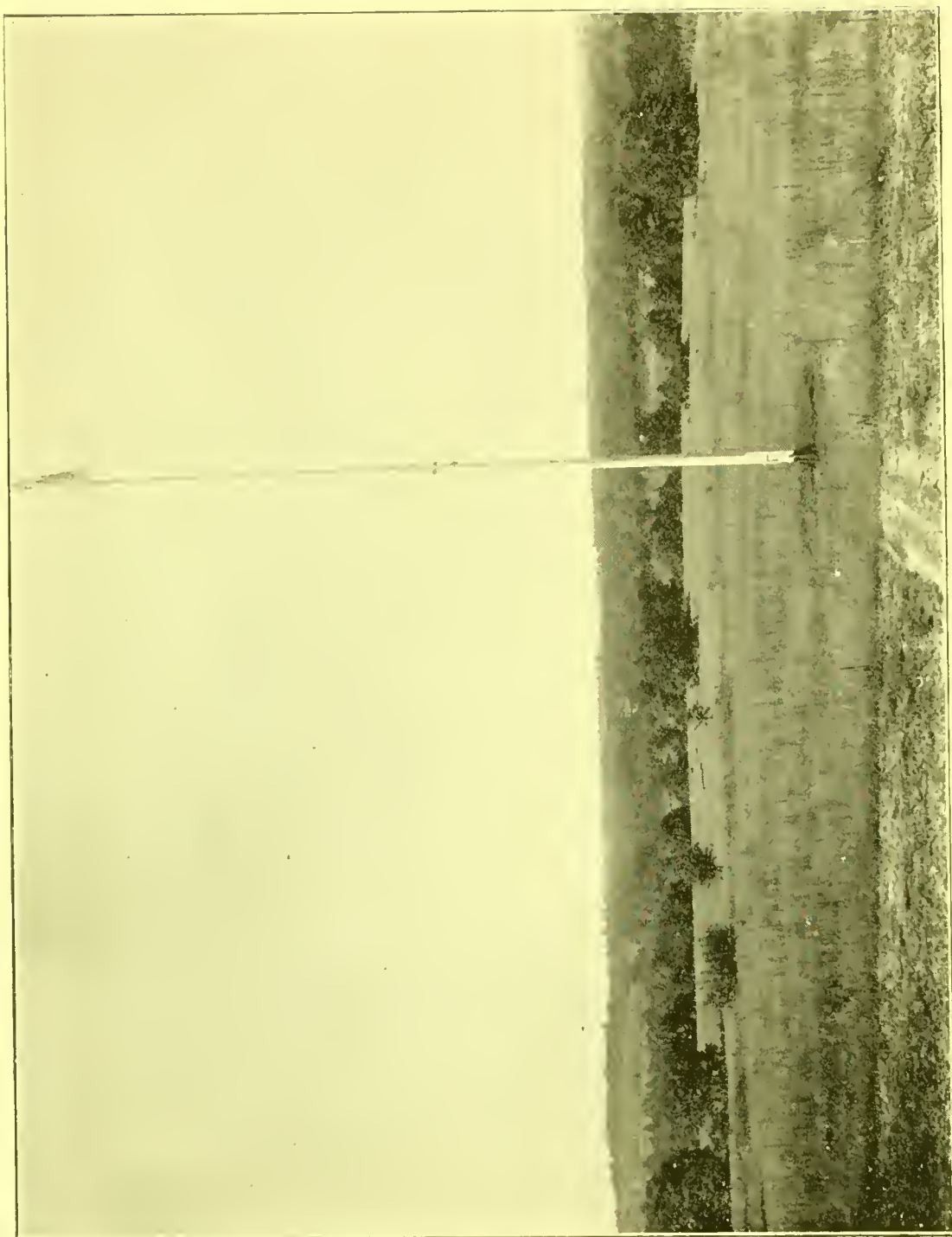
the grave of anyone whose remains were properly identified. Subsequently a large number of prisoners of war, who had been buried at Macon, Columbus, Thomasville and Albany, and the remains from various battlefields, were transferred to the Andersonville Cemetery.

The Government secured the title to the soil in which these sacred dead were buried, including a strip of equal width extending to the Central of Georgia Railroad. The cemetery proper contains twenty-five acres, divided by a main avenue running through the center and subdivided into blocks and sections. Walks have been laid out; the ground cleared of stumps and stones; trees, shrubbery and flowers planted; drain tile laid; the graves and entire grounds sodded with grass and enclosed with a thick, ivy-covered brick wall; a tasty brick residence for the Superintendent erected, with convenient outbuildings and arbors; a flag-staff, from which daily floats the National colors, and thus the sacred spot has been transformed into a beautiful city of the dead. On every Memorial Day, impressive ceremonies are conducted by G. A. R. posts of the Department, attended by large concourses of people, and, from amidst the thick verdure of the trees, daily requiems are chanted by sweet-voiced feathered songsters.

ANDERSONVILLE AT THE CLOSE OF THE WAR.

At the time of Capt. Moore's visit, in the summer of 1865, there was but one house at the railroad station known as Andersonville, besides the hospitals, officers' quarters and commissary and quartermasters' buildings used by the Confederates, which were about in the same condition as when abandoned, a few months prior. The stockade, also, remained almost entirely intact. Capt. Moore thus describes it in his report:

"The noted prison pen is fifteen hundred and forty feet long and seven hundred and fifty feet wide, containing twenty-seven acres. The dead-line is seventeen feet from the stockade and the sentry boxes are thirty yards apart. The inside stockade is eighteen feet high, the outer one twelve feet, and the distance between the two is one hundred and twenty feet.



View South Over Prison Ground. Wells Marked by Fringe of Bushes.

[COPYRIGHTED.]

Nothing has been destroyed. As our exhausted, emaciated and enfeebled soldiers left it, so it stands to-day. * * * The ground is filled with holes where they had burrowed, in their efforts to shield themselves from the weather, and many a poor fellow, in endeavoring to protect himself in this manner, was smothered to death by the earth falling upon him."

The Superintendent appointed for the Cemetery was instructed to "Allow no buildings or structures, of whatever nature, to be destroyed, particularly the stockade surrounding the prison pen." This precaution, however, (doubtless for the reason that the real estate upon which they rested belonged to private parties), availed nothing. In the course of time, the buildings all disappeared. The stockade, also, gradually melted away, much of it being utilized for fuel, and large portions carried off by relic hunters, in the shape of canes, etc. A considerable portion of it remained standing, however, for over a quarter of a century, but now nothing remains but the stumps under ground, from which the lines may easily be traced. These are mostly pitch pine, which will last under ground for an indefinite time, unless disturbed.

THE ACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA G. A. R.

Thousands of the survivors of Andersonville prison and their friends, who visited the memorable spot after the War, expressed their keen regret that some steps were not taken to secure the grounds and preserve and perpetuate them as a fitting and lasting memorial to the heroes who suffered there.

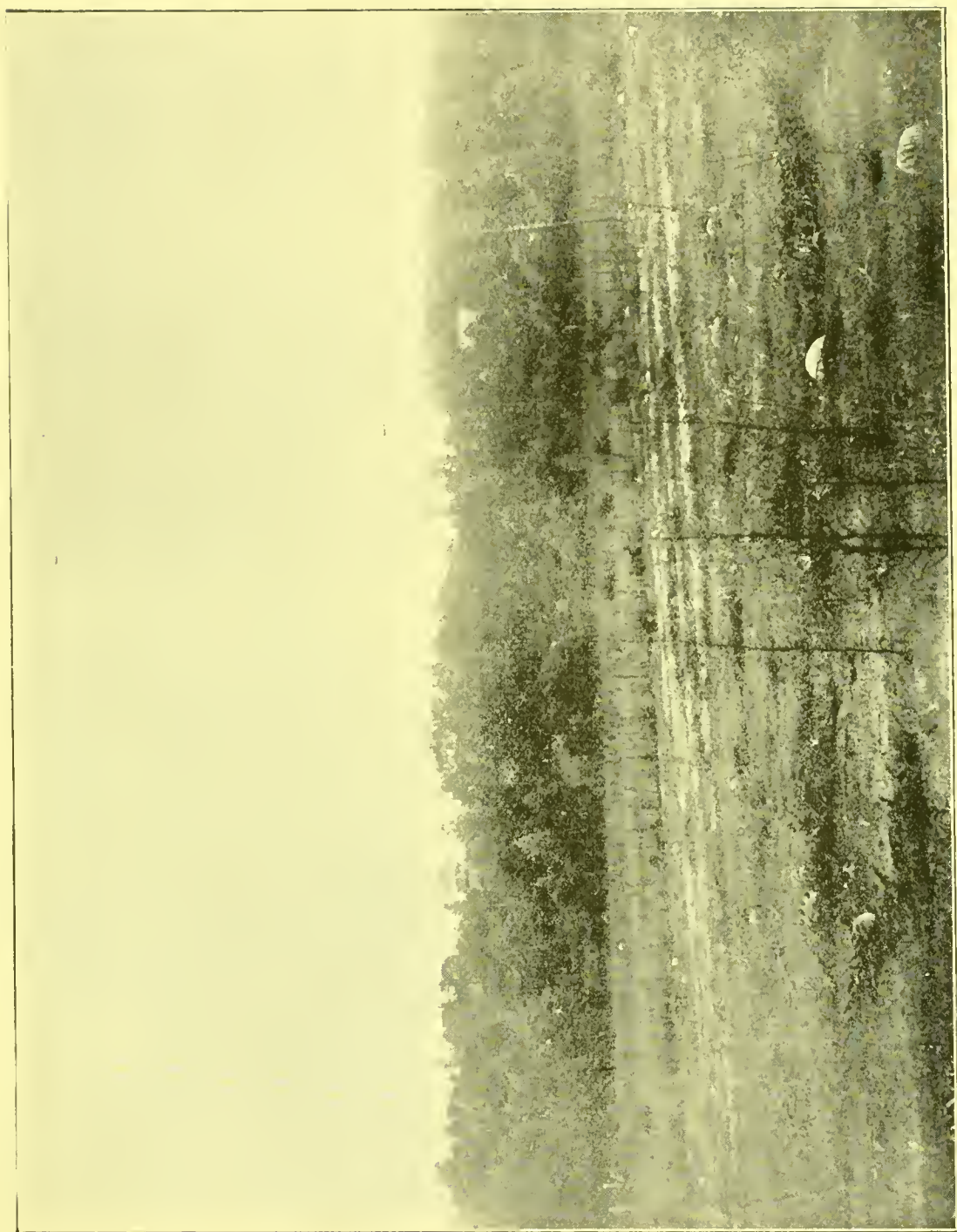
Influenced by this popular demand, action to this end was finally taken by comrades of E. S. Jones Post No 5, of Macon, Department of Georgia, and to them credit is due, in large measure, for the successful results.

At the meeting of the Department Encampment, held at Augusta, January 24, 1890, E. S. Jones Post No. 5 introduced a resolution asking that the Post have the assistance and co-operation of the Department. The resolutions were referred to the Council of Administration, which, at a meeting held the same date, appointed a committee to devise means for the purchase, preservation and improvement of the Andersonville

Prison property. At a meeting held at Savannah, May 13, the committee were directed to purchase the prison property, on which they had secured an option from the owner, which they did, a few days later, making a partial payment. The Council then directed the incorporation of the Department (which was soon thereafter accomplished), and appointed a Board of Control to take charge and to solicit further contributions to complete payment and start needed improvements, which action was endorsed by the Commander-in-Chief. The Board of Control, elected July 10, 1890, consisted of the following comrades: John W. Stone, Post No. 1, three years; I. D. Crawford, Post No. 5, three years; Isaac Beckett, Post No. 3, two years; L. E. Doolittle, Post No. 2, two years; Geo. N. Graham, Post No. 4, one year.

The original purchase of land by the Department of Georgia consisted of about seventy-two and one-third acres (together with a right-of-way, one hundred feet wide, leading toward the railroad station), including all of the stockade, excepting a small portion of the north-west corner, and the forts and earthworks around it. The price paid for it was \$1,500. The improvements, made during the first year, cost \$1,500, making a total expenditure of \$3,000. These improvements consisted of clearing the entire grounds from undergrowth, leaving the large trees standing; planting a hedge around the property (which proved a failure and was subsequently mostly removed); planting a hedge around eighteen of the old water wells on the prison grounds, which remain, well preserved, from twelve to twenty-five feet deep; clearing and grading a belt roadway around the entire outer limit of the purchase, and building two substantial bridges across the creek; cleaning out the creek and driving piling at the eastern end, to prevent washing away of earth after heavy rains; grading a central avenue from the one hundred feet right-of-way on the west line, across the grounds to the east line, and an avenue leading from it to "Providence Spring."

The responsibility which had been assumed by the Department was a very grave one, and was accompanied by a great deal of anxiety as to the final result. The Board of Control worked earnestly and unremittingly to secure the funds necessary to pay the indebtedness on the property and secure a



[COPYRIGHTED.] View North Across Stockade Ground.
Carc-Taker's House in Distance. South Gate Marked by Two Posts on the Left.

deed. In this they were ably assisted by Department Commander A. E. Sholes, (in 1891), and by Commander Thomas F. Gleason (in 1892-3). The latter, after indefatigable efforts during the two years of his administration, had the pleasure of announcing at the Encampment, held at Savannah, March 19, 1894, that the Department was out of debt.

For this satisfactory condition of affairs, credit was due, not only to appreciative comrades throughout the country, who had liberally contributed to the worthy cause, but especially to that noble army, the Woman's Relief Corps, who have never yet failed to respond promptly, when appealed to in the interests of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of all those who made such heroic sacrifices, in the dark days, to save the Union. The officers of the Georgia Department, realizing that it would be a most difficult, if not impossible, task, in their weak financial condition, to carry out the improvements at Andersonville in a manner worthy of the cause, had made vain efforts to induce the National organization to accept a transfer of the titles and assume the responsibility. Steps were then taken to influence the National Woman's Relief Corps. While the proposition to take charge of the Andersonville Prison property was strongly advocated by several leading women of the order, who had made a personal investigation as to its merits, the prudence and good judgment which has always characterized this association, led them to hesitate until the matter was fully and carefully considered.

ANDERSONVILLE ACCEPTED BY THE NATIONAL W. R. C.

At the Twenty-ninth National Convention of the Woman's Relief Corps, held at St. Paul in August, 1896, a committee from the Georgia Department urged the matter again upon them, and they were so ably seconded by the committee of women who had been selected to investigate and report upon it, that the convention unanimously adopted the following:

"Resolved, That we accept, as a sacred trust, the Andersonville Prison property, on the conditions proposed by the Department of Georgia, G. A. R."

The conditions named were, simply, that the organization

would accept the title, free of incumbrance, preserve the grounds, improve them in such manner as they were able, and render them a fitting and lasting memorial to the memory of the heroes who had suffered there.

As an evidence of the hearty enthusiasm with which this trust was accepted, immediately after the adoption of the resolution, voluntary contributions to the fund were made by a number of ladies present, aggregating \$1,865.50. A committee of ladies visited the National Encampment of the G. A. R., then in session, and communicated the action of the convention. The announcement was received with enthusiastic applause and the following resolution was passed:

"Resolved, That we heartily commend the patriotic and generous action of the Woman's Relief Corps, in providing for the permanent preservation of the site of the Andersonville prison."

The following active "Board of Managers of the Andersonville Prison Property" was immediately elected: Elizabeth A. Turner, Chairman, Boston, Mass.; Annie Wittenmyer, Sanatoga, Pa.; Emma R. Wallace, Chicago, Ill.; Margaret R. Wickens, Sabetha, Kan.; Charlotte J. Cummings, Tidioute, Pa. With characteristic energy, this board went to work. A deed was properly drawn and executed, placed on record and forwarded to the chairman, and an appeal was made, through general orders, by the W. R. C., for further contributions. Subsequently, Mrs. Sarah D. Winans, of Toledo, O., was elected to succeed Mrs. Wickens, on the board, and Mrs. Calista R. Jones, of Bradford, Vt., succeeded Mrs. Cummings.

PROGRESS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS.

At their Annual Convention at Buffalo, N. Y., in September, 1897, the National Woman's Relief Corps elected the following comrades of the G. A. R. as an "Advisory Board," to act with the Board of Managers: James P. Averill, Chairman, Atlanta, Ga.; Thos. Frame, Superintendent of National Cemetery at Andersonville; W. W. DeHaven, Macon. To this board was delegated the responsibility of carrying out details, under the direction of the Board of Managers, as well as to act in an advisory capacity. As only about \$3,000 had

been paid into the fund, the utmost economy had to be used, and money expended, at the outset, for what seemed to be the most pressing and necessary. The first important item of expense was about \$350.00 for the purchase of an additional fourteen and one-half acres, to include the north-west portion of the stockade, which all previous efforts had failed to secure. With this addition, the total purchase consists of eighty-two and two-tenths acres, which includes, not only the stockade, but all of the forts and earth-works surrounding it, and the roadway to the public road leading to the railway station. These old forts are perfectly preserved and are overgrown with fine young forest trees.

The entire property has been enclosed by a Page wire fence, in the most substantial manner, with convenient gates, at a cost of over \$600.00. About one hundred feet north of the north line of the old stockade, a substantial nine-room residence has been erected, occupied by the care-taker, and commodious enough for the entertainment of such visitors as may require accommodations. This, with a substantial stable and other accessories, cost over \$2,000. One of the sleeping apartments has been tastily furnished by individual members of the W. R. C., of Massachusetts, for the especial use of such visiting comrades as can ill afford to pay for such accommodations. The reception room has been handsomely furnished, at a cost of \$100, by contributions from the Department of Illinois, W. R. C.

Comrade Wm. Wilson, of Post No. 1, Atlanta, has been installed as care-taker, who, with his hospitable wife extends a cordial welcome to all visitors.

The old stockade has been planted with Bermuda roots, at a cost of \$117, and will soon become an expanse of green sward. Along the creek bottom is a tangled growth of bushes and briars, which is being removed.

On Memorial Day, 1898, a beautiful flag-staff was erected, one hundred and fifteen feet high, within the line of the old stockade and immediately in front of the superintendent's residence. From its peak floats, daily, our beautiful National emblem—a gift from the Prisoners of War Association of Connecticut. The staff is a contribution from Colony Woman's Relief Corps No 2, and comrades of the G. A. R., of

Fitzgerald, Ga., and cost about \$150. The flag was first raised with appropriate and impressive ceremonies, immediately after the memorial exercises at the cemetery.

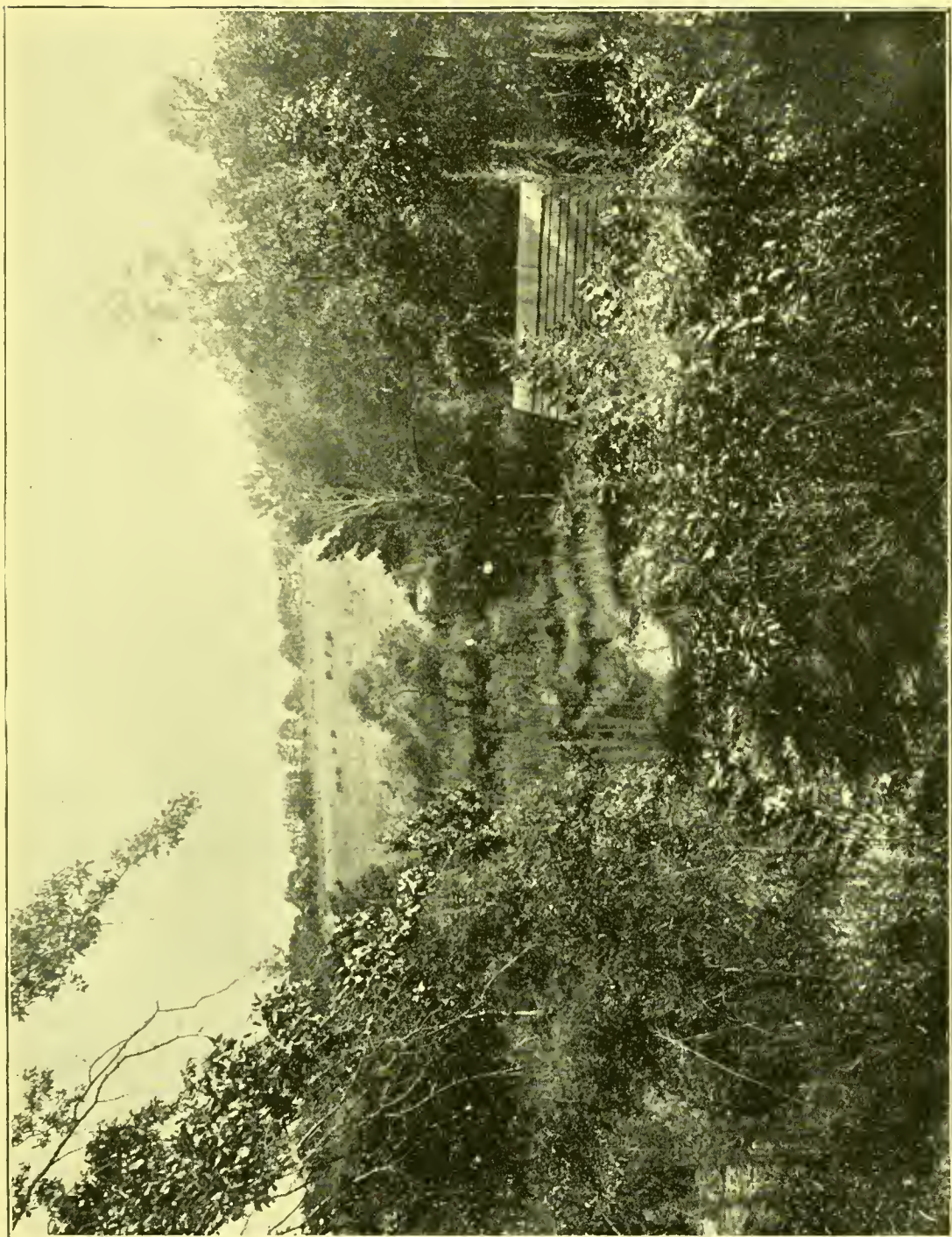
The graceful arch, bearing the inscription, "Andersonville Prison Park," erected "In Memory of the Unknown Dead at Andersonville," at the main entrance on the west boundary of the grounds, and at the beginning of the one hundred feet right-of-way leading to the railway station, is a gift from W. R. C. No. 9, Department of Kansas, and W. R. C. No. 172, Department of Massachusetts.

The total amount disbursed by the National W. R. C., up to January 1, 1899, is four thousand, three hundred and fifty dollars (\$4,350); expended previously by the Department of Georgia, G. A. R., three thousand dollars (\$3,000), making a grand total of seven thousand, three hundred and fifty dollars (\$7,350), of which \$1,850 was expended for the purchase, and \$5,500 for improvements.

The Board is entirely out of debt, and propose to remain so. Improvements will continue to be made only as the funds are received to pay for them. A nominal salary is being paid monthly to the care-taker, who is also allowed to cultivate small tracts of land outside the old stockade. The plan is being considered of planting fruit and nut trees on a portion of this land, which will not only beautify it but become a source of considerable income.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE.

There is much yet to be done, in the way of tile-draining the creek bottom, and completing the clearing out of vines, briars and brush; also, in the way of terracing, grading and building culverts, in order to protect the premises from the washing away of earth and the formation of unsightly gullies. A few hundred dollars expended in this way, and a little attention thereafter, would give a convenient approach to every point of interest by carriage-drive, and permanently preserve it. The tile-draining of the creek bottom and clearing of undergrowth, would render easy of access one of the most interesting features of the stockade. A number of perpetual springs now flow from the bluffs, across this bottom, into the creek, which renders the ground soft and boggy.



[COPYRIGHTED.]
View South Across the Creek.
Providence Spring House on the Right. Site of Gallows in Middle Distance.

"PROVIDENCE SPRING."

Probably the most interesting feature of this most interesting locality is what is known as "Providence Spring"—so appropriately named by the heroes of Andersonville.

The story is universally familiar, and will ever live in history—of how, when the famished prisoners had reached that moment when they realized that they could no longer endure, with naught but the contaminated waters of the creek to sustain them, during a severe electric storm, this living stream broke forth, bright, pure and sparkling, bringing renewed life and hope. Skeptics and philosophers may easily explain its appearance from natural causes, yet it will always be recognized as an especial evidence of the infinite power and mercy of a Divine Providence.

Not only was it providential that this supply of pure water should come at this opportune time, but also that it came from within the "dead line," where, by the prison laws, it was protected from being trampled and defiled. Let it be perpetually preserved as a lesson and inspiration to all future generations. It is flowing still, as in days of yore, ready to refresh all in need who come.

It has been suggested that this historic spring should be covered by a marble pavillion, with tile roof, tiled flooring and marble basin, with appropriate inscription, and constructed in as substantial and elaborate a manner, and of as beautiful a design as possible. It is now protected by a temporary wooden building, which is anything but ornamental. It is understood that the National Prisoners of War Association intend making a liberal appropriation for this purpose. It is hoped that other kindred organizations will join them, and that the object will be accomplished within the coming year.

A MONUMENT OF GRANITE OR BRONZE.

When practical matters, of importance to the proper protection and preservation of the premises, have been attended to, it is probable that an appeal will be made for designing and erecting a suitable granite or bronze monument, with appropriate inscriptions. The site proposed for it is near the north line of the stockade, well elevated, which commands a delightful view over a wide expanse of gracefully sloping hills

and verdant valley. It is hoped that Congress will soon take action in this matter, and make a reasonable appropriation for the purpose. Also, that a joint commission will be appointed, from the several states whose sons were represented among the heroes at Andersonville, to secure state appropriations.

The official records show the distribution among the states to be as follows, of those buried in the cemetery:

Alabama	15
Connecticut	304
District of Columbia	7
Delaware	41
Illinois	889
Indiana	653
Iowa	209
Kansas	3
Kentucky	444
Maine	250
Maryland	185
Massachusetts	767
Michigan	653
Minnesota	79
Missouri	106
New Hampshire	154
New Jersey	207
New York	2,504
North Carolina	20
Ohio	1,055
Pennsylvania	1,849
Rhode Island	74
Tennessee	723
Vermont	249
Virginia	54
West Virginia	228
Wisconsin	256
Colored Troops	25
U. S. Army and Navy	557
Service unknown	159
Totally unknown	991
Total	13,710

About six hundred of the "unknown" were not among the Andersonville prisoners.

According to an investigation made by Comrade Geo. G. Russell, the hospital records show that 17,873 patients were registered, and that 823 of these were exchanged and about 25 took the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, leaving 17,025 to be accounted for, giving a mortality of 76 per cent. of those who entered the hospital. Besides the registered dead, several were killed while attempting to escape. An unknown number also perished by the falling in of excavations which they had built for shelter, and the sacred bones of many of these still remain buried within the stockade, where they died. Besides those now resting in the cemetery, several hundred were removed by their friends, after the close of the war, to other cemeteries. The greater number of deaths occurred within the stockade at the time of the crowded condition during the summer of 1864, when the prisoners numbered from 25,000 to 35,000.

The names and number of those who suffered a thousand deaths within the stockade, and yet survived, should be added to the grand total of martyrs.

NATURE AIDS THE CAUSE.

Although satisfactory progress has, thus far, been made, much yet remains to be accomplished in order to carry out the plans of the Board of Managers and to satisfy their laudable ambition to transform this sacred spot into a fitting memorial. It is the desire to render it as beautiful and attractive as possible, where generations yet unborn may come to pay homage to one of the noblest bands of heroes in the world's history and receive patriotic inspiration.

Nature has done and is doing its best to aid the efforts that are being made, as though to express her warm sympathy and full approbation. She has covered, with a mantle of bright green, all of the sombre features of the past. Her fertile soil responds lavishly and lovingly to the efforts to beautify the grounds. The creek, which then ran darkly through the stockade, now sparkles and dances, clear and pure, in the sunlight, never ceasing, inviting us to banish all unpleasant memories of the past and accept the joy of the present—the joy and peace which the suffering at Andersonville did so much to bequeath to us.

DESCRIPTIVE OF ANDERSONVILLE PRISON AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.

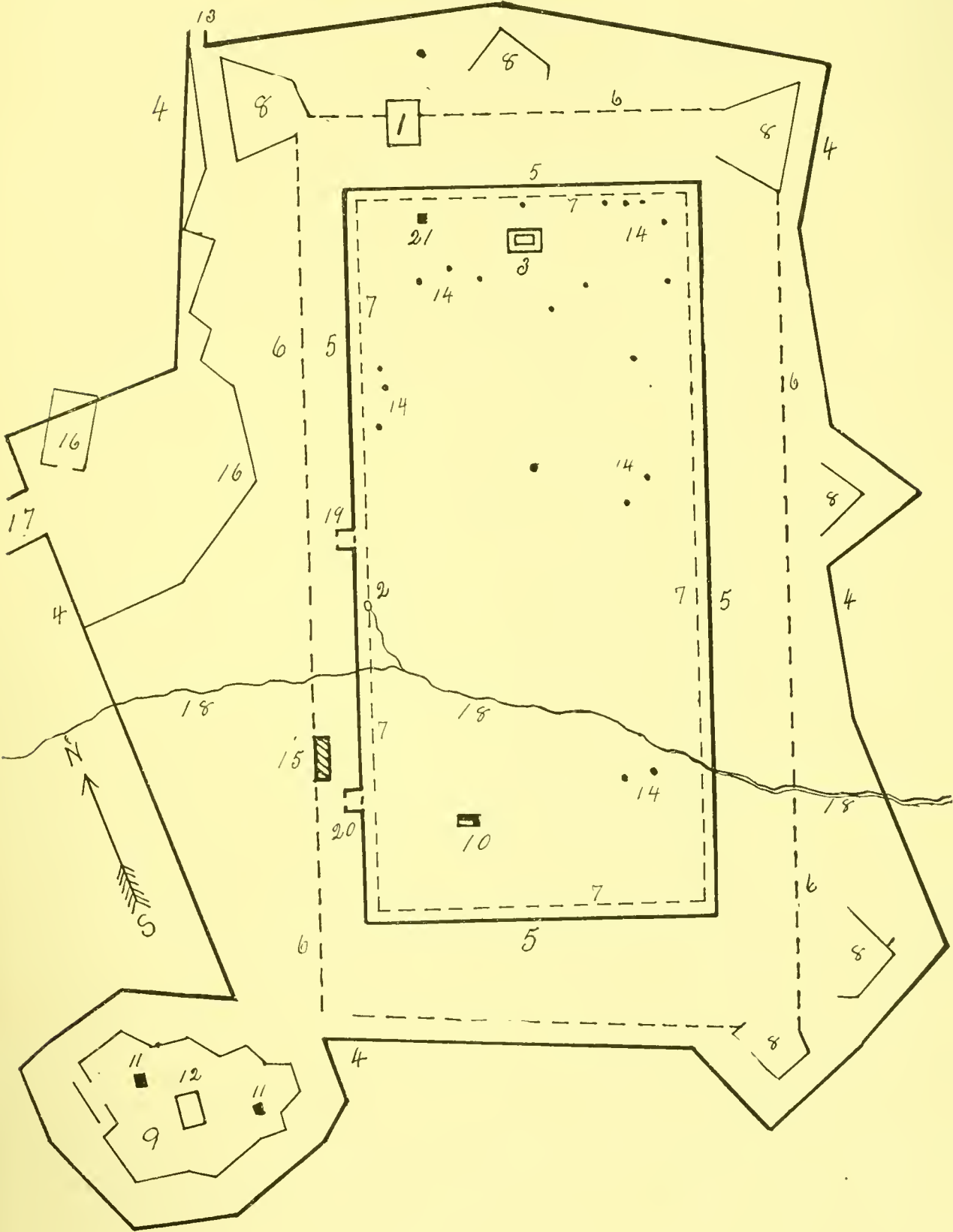
1. Care-taker's House, Erected by the National W. R. C.
2. "Providence Spring."
3. Site of Proposed Monument.
4. Outline of Purchased Property.
5. Outline of Stockade, Enclosing Prisoners.
6. Outline of Outer Stockade.
7. "Dead Line."
8. Confederate Forts and Batteries.
9. Main Fort, or "Star Fort," South-west Corner.
10. Site of Gallows, Where Marauders Were Hung.
11. Powder Magazines in "Star Fort."
12. Site of Capt. Wirtz' Headquarters.
13. Gate to Roadway Leading to the Cemetery.
14. Wells and Tunnels Dug by Prisoners.
15. Site of Dead House.
16. Entrenched Camp for Guards.
17. Roadway, 100 feet wide, Leading to R. R. Station.
18. "Stockade Creek," a Branch of Sweetwater.
19. North Gate of Stockade.
20. South Gate of Stockade.
21. Flag Staff.

The small railroad station of Andersonville is about one-half mile west of the stockade, the intermediate space being traversed by the line of Macon and Sumpter counties, the stockade being in Macon county and the village in Sumter. Near the railroad station was located Gen. Winder's headquarters and barracks and storehouses for the Confederate troops. Along the line of the creek were located stables and outbuildings from which the waters of the creek were greatly contaminated before entering the stockade. On the margin of the creek, near the stockade, were also located the bakery and cook house. A short distance to the west of "Star Fort" still stands a large hickory tree which was used as a post of observation to watch the prisoners within the stockade. The hospital was located a few rods south of the stockade. The plot of ground (now the National Cemetery) where the dead prisoners were buried, lies about one-quarter of a mile north of the old stockade.

PLAT OF ANDERSONVILLE PRISON GROUNDS.

(Made from Actual Survey.)

[COPYRIGHTED.]



PLANTING THE FLAG AT ANDERSONVILLE.

(MAY 30th, 1898.)

BY MRS. ANNIE WITTENMYER.

We lift up the banner of freedom to-day,
And let the world know that due honor we pay
To liberty's martyrs, who starved for the right,
And crown them, with heroes who fell in the fight.

Their chalice of woe was filled up to the brim ;
They drank to the dregs, with high courage and vim,
Nor faltered, nor wavered, but loyal and true,
Stood firm by their colors, the red, white and blue.

The earth was their pillow, their covering the sky,
And thousands laid down on the bare ground to die ;
No artist can paint, no pen tell the story,
Of all they endured for love of "Old Glory."

The Lord, in compassion, took note of their grief,
And came, in His majesty, to their relief ;
He rode on the wind where swift lightnings played,
And hallowed the ground where the prisoners laid.

They panted with thirst, ere the Presence passed by,
But flashes of glory lit up the dark sky ;
A thunderbolt fell, with omnipotent ring,
And opened the fountain of Providence Spring.

And peace came at last. Ah ! for thousands too late ;
We mourn, as a people, their pitiful fate,
And hold the ground sacred, our care and our pride,
And plant the flag over the place where they died.

But the Nation is saved ! they died not in vain ;
Our people are all re-united again.
From ocean to ocean—the lakes to the sea—
One country, one people, one flag of the free.

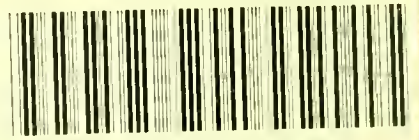
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